

Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(New)** An electrical service panel, comprising:

a breaker box having discrete primary and auxiliary electric power inputs associated therewith and a plurality of separate electric distribution circuits leading from said box;

a first circuit breaker operatively mounted in said box for operatively connecting and disconnecting said primary power input with respect to said distribution circuits;

a second circuit breaker operatively mounted in said box adjacent to said first circuit breaker for operatively connecting and disconnecting said auxiliary power input with respect to said distribution circuits;

a front closure plate for said box having an access opening exposing said first and second circuit breakers, each of said first and second circuit breakers having an external lever arm movable between discrete 'on' and 'off' positions for connecting and disconnecting said associated primary and auxiliary power inputs with respect to said distribution circuits; and

a flattened gate having a main body portion with a slot, a blocker arm, and a threaded fastener operatively extending through said slot and into said closure plate for adjustably supporting said gate on said closure plate for movement between at least first and second fixed positions on said closure plate;

wherein said first position only allows said external lever arm of said second circuit breaker to be cycled between said 'on' and 'off' positions, and said second position only allows said external lever arm of said first circuit breaker to be cycled between said 'on' and 'off' positions.

8. (New) The electrical service panel of claim 7, wherein said gate can also be supported at an intermediate position on said closure plate between said first and second positions, said intermediate position blocks said external levers of both said first and second circuit breakers from cycling from said 'off' to said 'on' positions.

9. (New) The electrical service panel of claim 7, wherein said slot and said threaded fastener define a track and a track follower connection between said gate and said cover plate for limiting movement of said gate between said at least first and second fixed positions.

10. (New) A circuit breaker control gate for use with an electrical service panel assembly that at least includes a breaker box, a primary circuit breaker, an auxiliary circuit breaker, and a front closure plate with an access opening, comprising:

an elongated main body portion having an elongated slot;

a blocker arm portion laterally extending from said elongated main body portion and terminating in a blocker end portion; and

at least one threaded fastener extending through said elongated slot and into the front closure plate;

wherein said elongated slot and said threaded fastener define a track and track follower connection so that said control gate can be moved alongside an edge of the access opening between: a first position where said blocker end portion prevents only the primary circuit breaker from being moved to an 'on' position, a second position where said blocker end portion prevents only the auxiliary circuit breaker from being moved to an 'on' position, and a third position where said blocker end portion prevents both the primary and auxiliary circuit breakers from being moved to 'on' positions.

11. (New) A method of establishing an auxiliary electric power source alternate to a primary electric source for powering a main electric power panel and thereby supplying auxiliary power to a plurality of distribution circuits, said main power panel having at least one bus bar operatively connected to said distribution circuits and having a main input circuit breaker with a manual handle movable between “on” and “off” positions to operatively connect and disconnect a primary source of electric power to said bus bar and thereby to said distribution circuits, a primary electrical conducting circuit breaker for operatively connecting said primary source to said bus bar and having an external handle movable between “open” and “closed” position for disconnecting and operatively connecting said primary source with respect to said bus bar comprising the following steps:

(a) moving said handle of said main circuit breaker to an ‘off’ position and ensuring there is no power flow into said box;

(b) obtaining an auxiliary circuit breaker corresponding to said main circuit for said auxiliary power source having a manual handle movable between ‘on’ and ‘off’ positions for operatively connecting and disconnecting said auxiliary power source to said distribution circuits;

(c) installing said auxiliary circuit breaker adjacent to the primary circuit breaker in said power panel;

(c) moving a gate to a first position on said panel so that the main breaker handle can be displaced to a panel energized position and so that the auxiliary circuit breaker handle is blocked from being positioned to a panel energization position thereby ensuring that said panel is only energized by said primary source of power;

(d) moving said gate to a second position on said panel so that the main breaker handle is blocked from movement to an energized position and so that only said second circuit breaker can be conditioned to an energized position; and

(e) moving said auxiliary circuit breaker handle to a deenergized position while maintaining the block of the first circuit breaker handle to prevent the energization of said distribution circuits by said primary source.

12. (New) The method of claim 10 and further including the step of:

(f) moving said gate to a fixed intermediate position between said first and second positions for concurrently blocking the movement of said main and auxiliary breaker handles to their panel energizing position.